

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A biaxially oriented tubular film comprising at least five layers; wherein each of the first four layers, counted from the inside to the outside, consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin, and the first four layers are followed by one or more layers based on at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylidene chloride copolymer, a polyamide, an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the first layer consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of ethylene, homopolymers of propylene and copolymers of linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 2, wherein the first layer consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of a linear low-density polyethylene, a high-density polyethylene, polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene block copolymers and polypropylene random copolymers.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 3, wherein the first layer consists of at least one polyethylene produced using a metallocene catalyst.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the first layer includes modified polyolefins, said modified polyolefins being copolymers of ethylene or propylene and optionally further linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 3 to 8 C atoms with one

or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids, metal salts thereof and alkyl esters thereof,  
and/or graft copolymers of one or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids, preferably  
maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, and anhydrides thereof, esters thereof, amides  
thereof [[or]] and imides thereof on polyolefins or polyolefin copolymers.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the first layer consists of a polyolefin and/or modified polyolefin with a melting point of 70-130°C, a density of 0.86-0.98 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a melt index of 0.2-15 g/10 min.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the third layer consists of homopolymers of ethylene or propylene and/or copolymers of linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 7, wherein the polyolefins of the third layer consist of at least one selected from the group consisting of a linear low-density polyethylene, a high-density polyethylene, polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene block copolymers and polypropylene random copolymers.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the second layer and the fourth layer consist of at least one selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and modified polyolefins.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 9, wherein the polyolefins are at least one selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of ethylene, homopolymers of propylene and copolymers of linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The tubular film according to claim 9, wherein the modified polyolefins are copolymers of ethylene or propylene and optionally further linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 3 to 8 C atoms with one or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids, metal salts thereof and alkyl esters thereof and/or graft copolymers of one or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids, anhydrides thereof, esters thereof, amides thereof and imides thereof on polyolefins or polyolefin copolymers.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer or one of the layers following the first four layers consists of polyvinylidene copolymer constituted of vinylidene chloride and vinyl chloride and/or methacrylate monomers, the proportion of vinylidene chloride being at least 50%.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer or one of the layers following the first four layers consists of a homopolyamide and/or copolyamide or mixtures of such polyamides which are produced from monomers selected from the group consisting of caprolactam, laurilactam,  $\omega$ -aminoundecanoic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, decanedicarboxylic acid, dodecanedicarboxylic acid, terephthalic acid, isophthalic acid, tetramethylenediamine, pentamethylenediamine, hexamethylenediamine, octamethylenediamine, xylylenediamine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer or one of the layers following the first four layers consists of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, wherein the proportion of ethylene is between 27 and 48 mole-%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer or one of the layers following the first four layers consists of blends of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer and polyamide.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer or one of the layers following the first four layers consists of a polyolefin and/or a modified polyolefin or blends of the above polymers with each other.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 16, wherein the polyolefins are homopolymers of ethylene or propylene and/or copolymers of linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The tubular film according to claim 16, wherein the modified polyolefins are copolymers of ethylene or propylene and optionally further linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 3 to 8 C atoms with one or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids, ~~methacrylic acid and/or~~ metal salts thereof, and ~~and/or~~ alkyl esters thereof, and/or graft copolymers of one or more of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids anhydrides thereof, esters thereof, amides thereof and imides thereof on polyolefins or polyolefin copolymers.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the tubular film has been subjected to coextrusion and biaxial stretching.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the tubular film has been subjected to coextrusion, biaxial stretching and subsequent heat-setting.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the tubular film has a wall thickness of from 30 to 120  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method for packaging and wrapping meat, meat with bones, or pasty foodstuffs comprising packaging and wrapping meat, meat with bones, or pasty foodstuffs with the tubular film as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A bag wherein said bag is produced from a tubular film according to claim 1 by welding or sealing the inner layer on itself.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method for packaging and wrapping meat, meat with bones, or pasty foodstuffs comprising packaging and wrapping meat, meat with bones, or pasty foodstuffs with the bag as claimed in claim 23.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A tubular film as claimed in claim 1 wherein said tubular film is biaxially oriented, shrinkable and sealable.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A food wrap comprising the tubular film as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A food package comprising the tubular film as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the layer following the first four layers is a gas-barrier layer for protection against mechanical damage.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 28, wherein the gas-barrier layer is followed by one or more layers of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin layer.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 29, comprising one or more layers consisting of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin following the gas-barrier layer.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A tubular film according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the layers following the first four layers consists of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, wherein the proportion of the ethylene is between 34 and 48 mol%.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 16, wherein the modified polyolefins include copolymers of ethylene or propylene and optionally further linear  $\alpha$ -olefins having 3 to 8 C atoms with at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, metal salts thereof, and alkyl esters thereof, and/or graft copolymers of at least one selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, and anhydrides, esters, amides or imides thereof on polyolefins or polyolefin copolymers.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the tubular film has a wall thickness of from 40 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The tubular film according to claim 1, wherein the first four layers are polyolefin or modified polyolefin layers, and a layer following the first four layers is a polyamide layer.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A sealed package, comprising:  
a bony meat product inside the tubular film of claim 1,  
wherein the tubular film is transversely heat sealed on both ends and the bony meat product is in contact with the first layer of the tubular film.

Claim 36 (New): A biaxially oriented tubular film, comprising at least five layers; wherein each of the first four layers, counted from the inside to the outside, consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin, and the first four layers are followed by one or more layers based on at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylidene chloride copolymer, a polyamide, an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, a polyolefin and a modified polyolefin;

wherein the tubular film has a relative damaging energy of more than 10 J/mm, wherein relative damaging energy is the quotient of the damaging energy and film thickness, and the damaging energy is determined following DIN 53 373 using a hardened cylindrical form A pin 3 mm in diameter according to DIN EN 28 734 as the impact body at a testing rate of 500 mm/min.

Claim 37 (New): The tubular film according to claim 36, wherein the tubular film comprises following layers in the following order from inside to outside: (i) a modified polyethylene, (ii) a modified polyethylene, (iii) a low density polyethylene, (iv) a modified polyethylene, and (iv) a polyamide.

Claim 38 (New): The tubular film according to claim 37, wherein layer (i) has a thickness of between 5 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , layer (ii) has a thickness of between 3 and 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , layer (iii) has a thickness of between 5 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , layer (iv) has a thickness of between 3 and 25  $\mu\text{m}$ , and layer (v) has a thickness of between 4 and 25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 39 (New): The tubular film according to claim 38, having a soiled seam strength of at least 11 N/25 mm when heat sealed at a temperature of 100°C.